Organic Seed Starter Mix Recipe

DIY Recipe for Healthy Seedlings

Printable Guide

ORGANIC SEED STARTER MIX

3 ¼ cups

15 minutes

DIY RECIPE FOR HEALTHY SEEDLINGS

INGREDIENTS

- Peat Moss or Coconut Coir – 1 part
- Perlite or Vermiculite – 1 part
- Organic Compost – 1 part
- Fine Sand (Optional) – 1/4 part
- Organic Fertilizer – 1 tbsp per gallon

Yield

- This recipe makes about 3¼ cups of seed starter mix if you use 1 cup as 1 part.
- Enough to fill 2–3 standard 6-cell seed trays or one small 10×20 tray.
- Want more mix? Simply multiply all ingredients by the same factor to make as much as you need for your garden.

DIRECTIONS

1. Measure Ingredients – Use a bucket, cup, or container for "parts."
2. Mix Dry Ingredients – Combine peat moss/coir, perlite/vermiculite, and sand.
3. Add Compost – Stir in evenly.
4. Incorporate Fertilizer – Mix fertilizer and worm castings evenly.
5. Moisten the Mix – Add water until damp but not soggy.
6. Fill Seed Trays or Pots – Leave a little space at the top.
7. Plant Seeds – Follow recommended depth for each type; keep soil moist.

💡 **Tip: For larger batches, using 1 quart as 1 part will give you roughly 1 gallon of seed starter mix, perfect for multiple trays or bigger containers.**

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MOLD & FUNGI ON SOIL SURFACE

Problem: White fuzzy growth on top of soil.

Cause: Overwatering or poor air circulation.

Solution:

Let the soil surface dry slightly between waterings.

Improve airflow around trays (fan or open window).

Remove any affected seedlings if mold persists.

SEEDS NOT GERMINATING

Problem: No sprouts after expected germination time.

Cause: Old seeds, too cold/wet soil, or planting too deep.

Solution:

Check the seed packet for viability and planting depth.

Keep soil consistently moist but not soggy.

Maintain proper temperature for that seed type.

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LEGGY & TALL WEAK SEEDLINGS

Problem: Thin, stretched stems; leaning toward light.

Cause: Not enough light.

Solution:

Move seedlings to a brighter window or under grow lights.

Keep lights 2–3 inches above seedlings.

Turn trays daily to promote even growth.

YELLOW LEAVES

Problem: Leaves turning yellow.

Cause: Overwatering, nutrient deficiency, or poor drainage.

Solution:

Check moisture levels; allow soil to dry slightly.

Ensure your seed starter mix drains well.

Consider adding a diluted organic fertilizer if seedlings are older than 2 weeks.